

These Trails Depend On You

Greider Ridge NRCA trails are heavily used since they are just a short drive from the Seattle-Everett area. With ever-decreasing public funds, trails can often remain open because of volunteer maintenance efforts. Get involved by contacting:

The Volunteer Trailwork Coalition

1-206-464-1641 or 1-800-650-1641 Or by internet at

vtc@halcyon.com http://www.halcyon.com/vtc/

For more information about the Greider Ridge NRCA, and how you can help protect its resources and recreational opportunities, contact:

Department of Natural Resources Northwest Region 919 N Township St Sedro Woolley, WA 98284-9395 (360) 856-3500

Emergency! Emergency!

Phone numbers you need to know:

- Medical Aid/Sheriff 911
- Vandalism —1-800-527-3305
- To report Wildfires 1-800-562-6010 or 911

Persons needing the information contained in this brochure in an alternate format may call: (360) 902-1340 or TTY (360) 902-1125



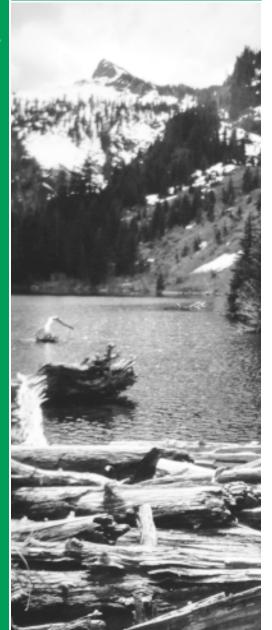


© 1998 Washington State Department of Natural Resources Forest Resources Division, Public Use/Engineering Division, Resource Mapping Cartography Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

1998 trail map

Greider Ridge NRCA Trail Systems

Greider Ridge NRCA Systems



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AREA

Greider Lake NRCA Photo by Nancy Barker



Greider Ridge Natural Resources Conservation Area

Greider and Boulder Lakes Trails are within the recently established 5600-acre Greider Ridge Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). The trail system is located about 50 miles northeast of Seattle, just southeast of Spada Lake in the Sultan River watershed. It can be reached via US Highway 2 near Sultan and Gold Bar. Greider Ridge NRCA is open for hiking, camping and fishing. Motorized vehicles, horses, and mountain bikes are not allowed.

Protecting unique natural features

The Department of Natural Resources manages more than 50,000 acres of state land on 24 sites as NRCAs. These lands are established for their outstanding scenic and ecological values. Special features found on conservation areas include: coastal and high elevation forests, scenic vistas, rocky headlands, active bald eagle nests, unique plant communities, and some of the oldest geology

in the state. The NRCA designation provides:

- Protection for habitat of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and animal species
- Opportunities for environmental education
- Opportunities for low impact recreation

Public use is allowed only where it will not negatively affect the area's protected resources.

Conservation areas are acquired through gift or purchase from willing land owners. The majority of current sites were formerly school trust lands with unique conservation values. They were purchased for conservation purposes with funds appropriated by the Washington State legislature.

Greider Lakes Trail

Greider Lakes Trail is the easier and the more popular of these two trails. The trail rises through an ancient cedar and hemlock forest. Enjoy what is almost a bird's eye view of an open forest as you hike up the trail. More than 40 trail switchbacks will take you up a 1000' elevation gain in about 1.5 miles, before benching and continuing the last half mile to Little Greider Lake. Big Greider Lake is just another half mile further at the base of a large rock basin. Small waterfalls tumbling over these cliffs feed the Greider Lakes throughout the year.

There is camping at both lakes. Some say the

fishing is very good, although access to some of the shores can be difficult. More adventurous hikers can get a spectacu lar view of the Greider basin from

the end of the

Vista Trail, which

takes off from the



Photo by Nancy Barker

main trail just before Big Greider Lake. Be careful when using this rarely maintained trail: it crosses rocky slopes and snowfields and can become extremely brushy as the growing season progresses.

Remember that it is critical to stay on the trails at all times to preserve the environment and ensure your personal safety. The sidehill is very steep, often disappearing over rock ledges. Do not look for shortcuts. Cutting through trail switchbacks can lead to serious erosion problems. Water will run unchecked, following any shortcut path. It has taken the Department of Natural Resources and volunteers many years to bring this trail up to a maintainable standard. Staying on the trail will help preserve the trail for years to come.

You can help protect this forest and your recreational opportunities if you ...

Remember These Rules

On the Trails

- Stay on DNR maintained trails.
- Respect the rights of others on trails.
- Watch for hazardous trail conditions.

In the Campgrounds

- Camp in designated campsites only.
- Do not alter or remove vegetation.
- Pack out garbage and litter.
- Limit fires to steel campsite fireplaces.
- Maintain quiet between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Snohomish County PUD Watershed Rules

Spada Lake is the principal source of drinking water for two thirds of Snohomish County's population. As a result, the maintenance of high water quality is of primary importance. The quality of the water relies upon the public's responsible actions, including observing the following rules:

- Boat launching only at designated locations.
- No combustion engines allowed.
- Motor vehicle operation only on improved roads.
- Picnicking is limited to approved sites.
- Public must use site toilets.
- Pets must remain in vehicles or be leashed at all times.
- No overnight camping.
- No swimming or wading in creeks or reservoirs.
- No inflatable devices on reservoir.

Special Fishing Regulations

- Trout catch limit: 5; length minimum: 12".
- Only artificial flies or lures with a single barbless hook are allowed.
- Bait is prohibited.
- Fish may be released until catch limit is reached.
- All tributaries to lake are closed to fishing.

Boulder Lake Trail

The Boulder Lake Trail is more difficult than the Greider Lake Trail, but hikers will be rewarded for enduring the 3.8 miles. The trail begins by climbing a steep abandoned road. This one-mile section is the most difficult part of the trail. From there the trail will improve as it continues to climb through the rocky slopes, old-growth hemlock forests, and open meadows.

Reaching the end of the trail, hikers cross the outlet of Boulder Lake. On the bridge, hikers stand



at eye level with the log jam holding back the lake's water. At the lake itself, there is camping and fishing in the crystal-clear, turquoise blue waters. The camp sites are scattered, offering some sense of seclusion. Huckleberawait hikers and

DNR Photo campers in

ries

the fall.

Remember, it will be difficult coming downhill on the steep, rock-strewn road portion of this trail. Under a heavy load this can be especially challenging. Please use caution.

The Boulder Lake Trail is within Greider Ridge Natural Resources Conservation Area so please stay on the trail. Trails are in the process of being improved by volunteer crews through the Student Conservation Association, and the Conservation Career Development Program. Please contact DNR's Northwest Region Office if you are interested in

adopting a portion of this trail, or bringing a



CCDP Crew (Highschool students)